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Georgia church opens doors after shooting

CONYERS, Ga. (BP) — While investigators worked behind crime scene tape at suburban Atlanta's Heritage High School the day after a well-publicized May 20 shooting, nearly 800 students, parents, and community leaders gathered at nearby Heritage Hills Church to hear an update from school officials and to find comfort in being together.

"We're just trying to minister to our kids and to other kids," said youth pastor Sean Nix in the Conyers, Ga., church parking lot, surrounded by a variety of local and national media representatives.

Nix said students began coming to the church the previous day after school was dismissed when six students were injured by gunfire and transported to area hospitals. A fellow student was charged with entering the school's common room as classes were about to begin and randomly shooting among the students.

When news reached the airwaves that some students were gathering at the church, others began to make their way to Heritage Hills, said Nix.

"We had a lot of kids come by here who are not part of our youth group," said Nix. The church enlisted counselors to meet with students to help them process their fears and to struggle with the familiar question of how such a violent event could occur in a community known for being quiet and caring.

"It can happen anywhere," said Joe Hughes, pastor of Heritage Hills, reflecting on the tragic event that had suddenly thrown this growing community just 25 miles east of Atlanta into the spotlight.

"And there is no [answer to] 'Why?'" said Andy Gans, director of children and youth at nearby Smyrna Presbyterian Church. However, he said the students could find "strength in knowing that God is always going to be with you.".

Both youth leaders expressed appreciation for how the students were supporting and encouraging each other. "I saw a lot of love and compassion," said Nix after meeting with students. He added that they prayed for both those who had been injured and for the fellow student charged with the shooting.

Kenny McKay, a Heritage High student and part of the Heritage Hills youth group, said such a tragedy probably resulted from "a hardened heart." He added, "It takes a long time to get that much hate."

With one week remaining, school officials were seeking to bring the academic year to a close by allowing students to forgo final exams if pleased with their current grades. Graduation ceremonies just eight days after this tragic incident were to remain on schedule.

But the impact of this surprise shooting at Heritage High, one month after a more deadly incident in Littleton, Colo., will go on much longer.

Gans said he sensed two strong feelings among the traumatized students with whom he had spoken. First, they are "scared and their innocence has been broken." Second, and on a hopeful note, he said, "These kids are taking charge of the situation" by supporting each other and looking to the future.

"I'm really worried about the eighth-graders," said Gans of those who will be entering Heritage High as new students next fall. "There's enough fear in just moving up."

He added that it is often "in times of tragedy that people turn to God."



MEETING THE PRESS — Youth Pastor Sean Nix talked with reporters outside Heritage Hills Baptist Church in Conyers following a meeting that drew approximately 800 people to learn more about the school shooting the previous day and to give encouragement to each other. (Photo by John D. Pierce)

Nazareth Christians attacked

NAZARETH, Israel (BP) — Christians in the Nazareth area of Israel are facing pressure following recent riots by Muslims, who attacked businesses owned by Christians and injured some individual Christians in their cars along the streets. "We need a lot of prayer. We are under a lot of pressure — all Christian Arabs," said Phillip Saa'd of Haifa, chairman of the Association of Baptist Churches in Israel, according to a report in European Baptist Press Service (EBPS) April 22. Saa'd grew up near Nazareth and knows well its people and Christian situation.

Tensions have been building for more than a year due in part to a controversial proposal to build a large mosque near the Church of the Annunciation, a Christian landmark in Nazareth. The city had planned to have a small park on the site, incorporating into it the tomb of a revered Muslim. In spite of the attacks on people and property, police have not intervened and no government response has come to help solve the situation, EBPS reported. Many Christians think the government is not stepping in because they do not want to alienate the Muslim voters, Saa'd said. There is now a Muslim majority in Nazareth. "It is against government interest to take a side," he said.

Christians in the area are also concerned, he said, because Muslim extremists continue to actively work in the surrounding towns and villages — in many places where Christians, Jews, and Muslims have coexisted without major problems. Now extremism from both the Orthodox Jews and Muslims is increasing.

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Looking back

10 years ago

J. Ralph Noonkester announces his retirement after 33 years as president of William Carey College in Hattiesburg. Noonkester, who denied charges of mismanagement levelled by a minority of Baptist-affiliated school's trustees, will turn 65 June 10 — the effective date of his retirement.

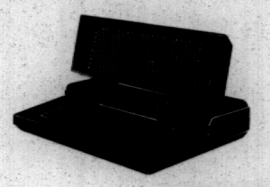
20 years ago

Presidents of the six Southern Baptist seminaries hold a press conference to put to rest "blanket accusations" of "liberal" teachings levied by Criswell College President Paige Patterson and Houston appeals court Judge Paul Pressler.

50 years ago

Mississippi Woman's College in Hattiesburg marks a milestone in celebrating commencement exercises June 5-6. This is the first graduating class since the spring of 1940. J. W. Parish, pastor of First Church, Laurel, delivers the baccalaureate address.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK





William H. Perkins Jr.
Editor

In beer wars, let's take moral high ground

Anheuser-Busch placed an ad in the April 22 issue of EXP, a free magazine geared toward the homosexual community in St. Louis, where the company is headquartered. The ad featured two men holding hands along with the text, "Be yourself and make it a Bud Light. Proud Sponsor of the St. Louis PrideFest '99." St.. Louis PrideFest is an annual celebration of the homosexual lifestyle.

An Internet campaign was begun shortly after the ad appeared by pro-homosexual groups wishing to thank Anheuser-Busch for their bold move. Anheuser-Busch promptly announced a nationwide toll-free hotline for people who wished to commend the company's homosexual advertising, but they conveniently forgot to install a companion hotline to register opposition calls.

Pro-homosexual groups are apparently not the only folks schooled in the use of the Internet, however. When word got out that Anheuser-Busch wasn't accepting opposition calls, e-mails began to zing from one end of the country to the other. Before long the company's regular telephone lines were jammed with offended callers demanding to be heard. Anheuser-Busch promptly installed an opposition line that featured the same pleasant electronic voice thanking them for their call opposing the advertisements.

A number of calls from The Baptist Record to Anheuser-Busch headquarters in St. Louis requesting a statement or a spokesperson went unreturned. The company has announced that it has no intention of publicly releasing results from the two toll-free numbers. The company seeks to indicate its contempt for the American public to all who have eyes to see.

After all, a company responsible for selling the misery and destruction of alcohol by the millions of gallons cannot possibly be sensitive to the damage done to the society by which it profits so handsomely.

Therefore, it is with tongue firmly planted in cheek that this writer offers the following suggestions for getting the attention of Anheuser-Busch:

- Concerned Baptists should switch to another brand of beer. Everyone knows we're not supposed to consume the sinister brew anyway, so just imagine the moral impact of thousands of Baptists marching into their favorite stores and announcing that, from this day forward, only Coors and Miller Lite will be found in the family refrigerator.
- Likewise, Baptists should exercise caution when drinking in public. We must always be sure that the can or bottle label is pointing outward on the restaurant table while we dine, so people who look up to us can see that we're not drinking an Anheuser-Busch product.
- We can inspect church rolls to identify the business people and church leaders who stock beer and associated products in their stores. Then maybe we could ask them, if they don't mind, if they're not too offended, if it pleases them, if they could see their way clear to do so, possibly they could stop selling Anheuser-Busch products or at least move the snazzy displays to a less-visible place in their stores so we won't be embarrassed during this selective buying campaign.



Think about it. This could be a highly successful move for Baptists. We can confront open homosexuality, a relatively new menace we really oppose, by utilizing alcohol, an old menace we really oppose (well, sort of).

At least we can hope — and pray.

GUEST OPINION:



Defending our religious freedoms

By Bill Hardin, pastor
First Church, Picayune

There was an abundance of traffic on the interstate and I was trying to pace myself accordingly. About a hundred yards or so ahead of me I saw cars swerving in to the other lane. I thought, "Maybe they are trying to avoid a piece of debris or something."

Much sooner than I anticipated, the car in front of me just darted into the right lane and left me exposed to what everybody else had been trying to miss: a turtle! Not just any turtle, mind you, buy an unusually large turtle! In the wink of an eye I had to make a decision. "Should I try to merge into the right lane like everyone else? Or, should I clutch my steering wheel and plow ahead?"

With a quick glance through my peripheral vision, I realized I had no choice. There were automobiles to my right and behind. I prayed a quick prayer then slowed my speed as I saw the inevitable. I flew over the turtle and saw him shrink into his shell and take refuge while all of us "drivers with no choice" kept him confined in the middle of the interstate.

Being the empathic person I am, I wondered about that turtle. Where had he (she?) been? Where was he headed? What was so important in the travel plans that caused that turtle to risk its life in the middle of the highway? Did he not sense impending danger? Did he ever make it safely across to the other side? Could I, or should I, have done something to try to help that tortoise in distress?

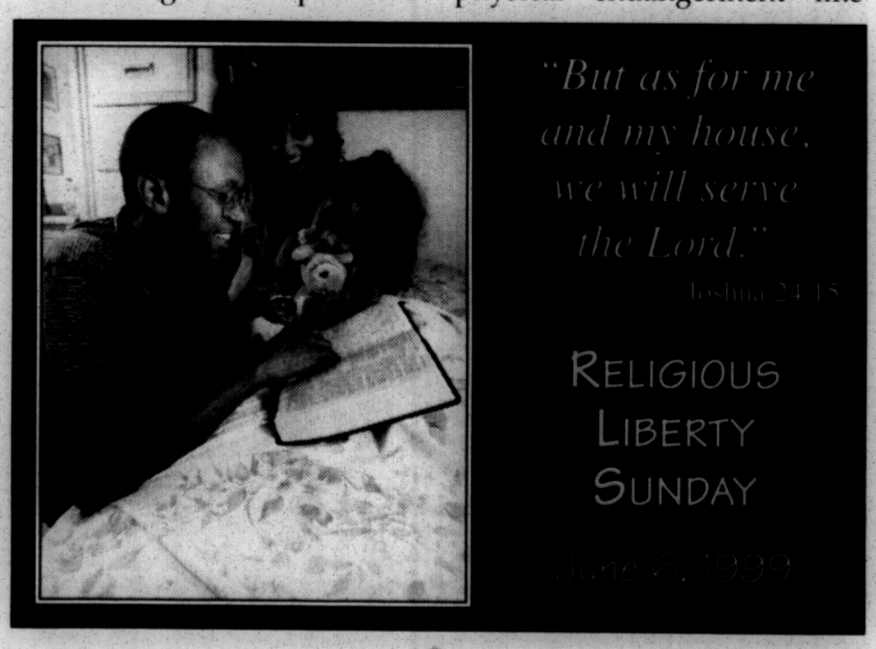
On Sunday, June 6, Southern Baptist are encouraged to emphasize a wonderful heritage of religious freedom. We can be thankful our country's history includes men and women like the Baptist Roger Williams of Rhode Island and Quaker William Penn of Pennsylvania. Like the turtle in the interstate, these trailblazers were willing to risk reputations and even life itself to promote a basic, fundamental conviction stated so succinctly in the First Amendment to the Constitution, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof..."

Rarely does a Christian in America suffer the abuse and physical endangerment like Christians in other places. Some governments like those in India, China, and Vietnam severely limit the expression of personal faith that is not state-approved. Our spiritual kinsmen who live in countries of a Muslim majority are sometimes forced to worship incognito. Last November our church held a worship service where we focused on the Persecuted Church and we heard fist-hand testimony of what it is like for a person to live in the danger of speaking the name of Christ in public.

Maybe the turtle didn't know how hazardous it was to be in the middle of the interstate. Maybe he had no choice but to be there. If he knew the threat of danger and chose that route anyway, I admire his courage! I am proud to be an American. I enjoy living here. But current trends may indicate that America is becoming a nation where the practice of faith is passionately restricted. Like the turtle in the interstate, Christians could find themselves paralyzed by the flow of cultural traffic. I hope we will recognize these dangers and vigorously defend our historic religious freedoms.

Daniel did not compromise. Joshua would not make concessions. Each one in their own way boldly proclaimed, "Regardless of what everyone else does, I will serve the Lord!"

Hardin serves as a trustee of the Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission.



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Texas Baptist leaders propose new giving option

DALLAS (ABP) — Texas Baptists would have another choice for how their missions gifts are spent — one that shifts more funds to ministries within the state and away from national agencies that are unpopular with moderates — under a plan proposed by the Baptist General Convention of Texas' (BGCT) administrative committee.

The proposed fifth option for giving through Texas Baptists' unified budget would enable churches to channel about 73% of their Cooperative Program gifts to ministries of the 2.7-million-member state convention.

The remainder would be allocated to the Southern Baptist Convention's (SBC) International and North American mission boards, two SBC entities located in Texas — Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth and Annuity Board in Dallas, — and the Baptist World Alliance, a global network of Baptists based in McLean, Va.

The new option would exclude funding for the remaining traditional SBC recipients of the Cooperative Program — five seminaries, the Executive Committee, and the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission.

Still, the proposal is expected to have less impact on those entities than some SBC leaders had feared, since it is being offered only as an additional giving option and not the "default" budget plan.

The BGCT executive board has met to consider the plan, recommended initially by a special funding committee.

The Texas convention is among several state groups in recent years to start offering giving options in response to controversy between moderates and conservatives in the nation's largest non-Catholic faith group.

For about seven decades, Texas Baptists had only one ministry-support option for funds distributed beyond the local church. Cooperative Program contributions sent to the state convention were divided, with a larger share staying in Texas to support BGCT causes and the rest forwarded for distribution to the various efforts of the national convention.

In 1994, the BGCT voted to broaden the Cooperative Program, offering churches more say in how their mission gifts are spent.

One current option allows churches to earmark funds solely for Texas Baptist ministries. Another follows the traditional pattern established in 1925, with Texas keeping 67% of these receipts and the SBC getting 33%.

The third is similar to the 67/33 split, except that churches may exclude up to five BGCT or SBC entities. The fourth enables churches to set their own percentage of how funds are divided between the BGCT and SBC and also include other Texas ministries and up to six other "worldwide" ministries.

The 1994 action also authorized the executive board to continnue to present a broader range of options to churches.

Bill Pinson, the state convention's executive director, said the new plan would merely simplify a process that is already available to Texas Baptist churches. "This can be done with the present form and is being done," Pinson said.

"This simply makes the process simpler," he added.

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

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Mississippians nominated for SBC posts

Following is a list of Mississippi nominees and seated trustees for Southern Baptist Convention agency and institution boards, as well as committee appointments. Nominees, who are marked with an asterisk, will be presented for approval to messengers at the SBC annual meeting June 15-16 in Atlanta. *(Sources: Baptist Press and local reports)*

SBC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Clark Stewart, pastor, Harmony Church, Crystal Springs. Term expires 2002.

Reuel May, Jr., Jackson oral surgeon and member of First Church, Jackson. Term expires 2001.

***Jim G. Butler**, pastor, Trinity Church, Southaven. Fills unexpired term of Jim Futral, who resigned after accepting executive director position at Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. Term expires 2000.

INTERNATIONAL MISSION BOARD

***Frank Gunn**, pastor, First Church, Biloxi. Nominated for second term to expire 2003.

Billy Joe Beckett, retired pastor, Columbus. Term expires 2002.

Robert M. Williamson, pastor, Grace Church, Brandon. Term expires 2000.

NORTH AMERICAN MISSION BOARD

Richard Powell, pastor, Colonial Heights Church, Jackson. Term expires 2002.

Joe Strahan, interim pastor, New Providence Church, Copiah County. Term expires 2002.

LIFEWAY CHRISTIAN RESOURCES

Gus Q. Merritt, retired pastor, Decatur. Term expires 2002.

Linda Barfield, Hattiesburg teacher and member of Main Street Church, Hattiesburg. Term expires 2001.

Bernie Brooks, Ellisville businessman and member of West Ellisville Church, Ellisville. Term expires 2001.

ANNUITY BOARD

***William T. "Dale" Patterson**, Jackson investments and member of First Church, Jackson. Term expires 2003.

Frank Harmon, pastor, First Church, Newton. Term expires 2000.

SOUTHERN SEMINARY

Thomas M. Atwood, pastor, First Church, Oxford. Term expires 2003.

J.D. Cutrer, retired businessman, Baldwyn, and member of First Church, Baldwyn.

Odean Puckett, retired pastor, Madison. Term expires 2000.

SOUTHEASTERN SEMINARY

Dwight L. Smith, pastor, First Church, Florence. Term expires 2001.

MIDWESTERN SEMINARY

Gary R. Peek, Pascagoula businessman and member of Four Mile Church, Pascagoula. Term expires 2003.

NEW ORLEANS SEMINARY

Jerry Adkins, Biloxi surgeon and member of First Church, Biloxi. Term expires 2002.

William H. Hanberry, Hattiesburg businessman and member of Temple Church, Hattiesburg. Term expires 2001.

Albert H. McMullen, retired pastor, Stonewall. Term expires 2001.

James W. Street, pastor, Calvary Church, Jackson. Term expires 2001.

SOUTHWESTERN SEMINARY

Billy Brumfield, pastor, Immanuel Church, Vicksburg. Term expires 2003.

ETHICS & RELIGIOUS LIBERTY COMMISSION

Paul D. Walley, Richton attorney and member of First Church, Richton. Term expires 2002.

COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES

Glenn Miles, trucking company general manager and member of Harmony Church, Crystal Springs.

David Shofner, pastor, Calvary Church, Petal.

COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS

Randy H. Russell, Jackson opthamologist and member of First Church, Jackson.

Dean Stewart, pastor, Corinth Church, Magee.

1999 SBC Annual Meeting
June 15-16 — Atlanta, Ga.
(all terms expire 1999)

TELLERS COMMITTEE

Terry Cutrer, pastor, First Church, Baldwyn.

Helping to Bring Mississippi and the World to Jesus

Deacons trained to be church peacemakers

By Carl M. White
Associate Editor

Editor's Note: Recently, Louis Smith, director of the Church-Minister Relations and Annuity Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB), and Matt Buckles, director of the MBCB Church Administration/Pastoral Ministries Department, spoke with The Baptist Record's associate editor, Carl White, about their new project for confronting the problem of conflict in the church.

Q: How did this project get started?

Smith: This project got its start because of our concern with conflict and pastor termination in the local church. In 1998, 45 pastors were dismissed from Mississippi Baptists churches. Studies reveal that when churches have difficulty, usually the deacons are the ones who handle it. Often they do not step in until the conflict is at a high level, when people begin to leave. We came up with the idea of training deacons to handle conflict early — when it happens, not after it has become uncontrollable.

Since the Church Administration/Pastoral Ministries Department (CAPM) works with deacons, I talked with Julius Thompson, who was then the department director, and then with current director Matt Buckles, and we came up with this project.

Q: Describe the project.

Smith: In February 1998 we equipped 85 people to be trainers, who would be available to go into churches and lead a conference with deacons on how to be peacemakers in the church. The people trained included lay persons, directors of missions (DOM), and pastors.

Buckles: Since that time we have been invited into 20 churches to train their deacon councils on how to handle conflict and be peacemakers in their church. Training has also been done on the associational level.

Q: Is this conflict mediation?

Smith: No. There has to be a clear distinction at this point. This is not mediation for a church already in conflict. This program is about preventing problems from escalating. The best time to learn about conflict prevention is when you do not have any.

Q: What's the goal?

Buckles: We hope to enable deacons to fulfill their biblical role as leaders and peacemakers in the local church.

Smith: Over the next three years we want to go into every Mississippi Baptist church and have a conference with their deacons.

Q: What will this cost a church?

Buckles: A church would be asked to pay the leaders' expenses for coming.

Q: Should the pastor be involved?

Smith: Yes. It would be helpful for the pastor to attend the conference with his deacons.

Q: How does a church set up a training event on conflict management?

Smith: The pastor or chairman of deacons should call their local DOM and ask for the names of trainers in their area. DOMs have been sent a complete list of those who have completed this training. It is then the responsibility of the church to contact someone on that list and set up a training time. Or, you can contact MBCB. There are three of us — Matt Buckles, Keith Gordon, CAPM consultant, and myself — available for training.

Q: How long does the training take?

Smith: The conference is designed to be from one-and-a-half to two hours in length. It could be part of an overnight deacon retreat, some other deacon outing, or a regular deacons meeting.

Q: What is the content?

Buckles: We will endeavor to train deacons to understand, recognize, and respond to conflict. Conflict is going to happen. It is how we deal with it that matters.

Smith: We also train them to recognize the early signs of conflict.

Q: ***What are the early signs?***

Smith:
- difficult business meetings
- angry people
- cliques in the church
- excessive criticism or nitpicking
- hostile humor.
- volunteer workers resigning, or difficulty enlisting workers.

Buckles: Tangible signs that conflict is already active in the church are people leaving the church, a staff member having to leave, or attendance and giving dropping off.

Q: Do you help deacons know how to respond to these early signs?

Smith: We give deacons some simple guidelines or strategies for dealing with conflict, such as:
- be sensitive to what others are saying
- deal with problems as they happen, and not practice denial
- keep things on the issue level and not on the personal level.

For instance, if some one complains that the pastor or a staff member is not doing their job, the deacon will learn ways to bring this to the attention of the pastor or staff member with out making them feel they are being attacked.

Buckles: We help deacons realize that conflict is inevitable. Even in Scripture there are stories of conflict between Christian brothers — for example, between Paul and Barnabas. Deacon ministry itself was birthed in conflict. A better understanding of the Biblical stories of conflict helps deacons in their role as peacemakers in the church.

Q: ***Is there anything else addressed in the training?***

Smith: Yes. We will train deacons on ways to approach a pastor or staff member who has acted unethically or immorally. It is important to know when to seek outside, professional help and where that help can be found.

For more information, contact Smith or Buckles at P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone (601) 968-3800, or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.



MAKING PLANS — Louis Smith (left), director of the Church-Minister Relations and Annuity Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB), and Matt Buckles, director of the MBCB Church Administration/Pastoral Ministries Department, discuss plans for training deacons as peacemakers in the local church. (Photo by Carl M. White)

'Vessels' broadcasts scheduled

"Vessels - A Video Magazine, Volume 5, Number 1" will be shown on a number of ACTS (Odyssey channels) and other cable television systems around the state during June 6-13, and at other times. If other churches in the state have access to a cable channel, the Broadcast Services Department will be glad to loan a 3/4-inch, S-VHS, or other format for broadcast.

Those who view "Vessels" on television are encouraged to contact the Broadcast Services Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651. Sponsoring churches and cable stations scheduled to broadcast the "Vessels" tape include:

Vessels

City	Date	Time	Cable Channel
First Church Brandon	June 6 June 7 June 9	10:30 a.m. 9 a.m. 3 p.m.	Rankin County Cablevision Channel 35
First Church Bruce	June 9 June 13 July 7	6:30 p.m. 8 p.m. 7 p.m.	Cable One Channel 2
First Church, Calhoun City	June 10	7 p.m.	Galaxy, Channel 27
First Church Cleveland	June 7 June 8 June 9	9 a.m. 9 a.m., noon 9 a.m., noon	Cable One ACTS Channel 10
First Church Greenville	June 9 June 11	8 p.m. 8 p.m.	TCA Cable TV Channel 98 or 60
First Church Grenada	June 7 June 11	5 p.m. 8:30 p.m.	W13CS LPTV Cable One, Ch. 13
First Church Hattiesburg	June 6 June 9 June 11	6 p.m. 8:30 p.m. 11 a.m.	Comcast Cable Channel 6
First Church Kosciusko	June 13	5:30 pm	Northland Cable Channel 2
ACTS in Monticello Monticello Church	June 6 June 13	6:30 pm 6:30 pm	Galaxy Cable Channel 23
First Church New Albany	June 6 June 13	6:00 pm 6:00 pm	Galaxy Cablevision Channel 13
First Church Pascagoula	June 10	7:30 pm	Cable One Channel 13
First Church, Poplarville	June 9	5 p.m./Replays	Galaxy, Channel 39
First Church Yazoo City	June 14 June 16	8:00 pm 8:00 pm	Cable One Channel 10

Four churches set Baptist Union of Albania

TIRANA, Albania (BP) — The Baptist Union of Albania was organized with a membership of four churches on May 1 at the Palace of Culture in Tirana, according to a May 19 report in European Baptist Press Service (EBPS).

Delegates from the four churches met to adopt their constitution and statement of faith and to elect officers.

A resolution about the Kosovar refugee situation also was adopted. A celebratory worship service followed the delegates' meeting.

The union's new officers are Bekim Beka of Tirana, general secretary; Adnan Pula of Tirana, president; and executive committee members Ardian Mazreku, Fation Prenga and Flutura Joca.

The union's charter-member congregations are Freedom Church and Way of Hope Church, both in Tirana; the Church in Bregu i Lumit; and the Good News Church in Lezhe.

Special guests at the service included Sokol Mirakaj, Director of the Albanian Department of Religious Affairs; Albert Dosti, president of VUSH (the country's evangelical alliance); John Keith, retired Canadian Baptist missionary who, with his wife, Virginia, came to Albania in 1991 at the request of the European Baptist Federation to survey Albania for the beginning of a Baptist outreach in the country. Ole Jørgensen, General Secretary of the Baptist Union of Denmark and President-elect of the European Baptist Federation; Yona Pusey of Great Britain, President of the European Baptist Women's Union; David Martin of Great Britain, representative of the Baptist Missionary Society.

People attending came by ferry from Italy and on airplane flights with schedules dictated by military use of the Tirana airport. Theo Angelov, president of the Baptist Union of Bulgaria and general secretary-elect of the European Baptist Federation, recounted the combination God used to establish the new Baptist work in Albania — the vision, hard work and sacrifice of Albanian believers and missionaries from abroad and the prayers of believers around the world.



The resolution of the refugee crisis in Albania as a result of the NATO/Yugoslavia conflict said in part that the union "considers the utterly tragic predicament of the multitudes of refugees who have found shelter or are still searching, as a consequence of the ongoing war in Kosovo; expresses its sincere solidarity to the Kosovar brethren forced out of their homes and their land and undergoing the most atrocious suffering for their lost relatives and daily hardships as well as to all those persons in Yugoslavia who suffer the consequences of this war."

The resolution concludes with the hope that "a just settlement of the Kosovar conflict and an end to the war be found soon, which will allow the Kosovar brethren to return to their homes and land and be reunited with their families in a situation of true peace; [and the union] prays that the God of Peace, who in Jesus Christ has shared the human suffering up to the experience of death, that in his mercy he may comfort and meet the basic needs of all the victims of this war, whatever their ethnic origins."

IMB seeks Kosovo volunteers

ALPHARETTA, Ga. (BP) — As Southern Baptist disaster relief volunteers continued helping Oklahoma tornado victims, a new call has been issued for 11 teams of volunteers to help with International Mission Board (IMB) relief operations in Albania and Macedonia during the summer.

The IMB also has requested two on-site coordinators through the disaster relief networks to give overall leadership to warehouse operations being conducted by field personnel, reported Mickey Caison, national coordinator for Southern Baptist disaster relief and an associate in adult volunteer mobilization for the North American Mission Board.

Four teams of 10 volunteers each will serve in a warehouse in Tirana, Albania, preparing and delivering food boxes for refugee families. Two of those teams have already been promised by Texas Baptist Men and North Carolina Baptist Men, which will be in Albania July 19-28 and Aug. 6-15, respectively. The other two teams are needed for Aug. 15-24 and Aug. 24-Sept. 2.

Additionally the IMB has requested seven teams of eight people each to serve in Skopje, Macedonia, to prepare and deliver food boxes to families. These teams are being requested for approximately two-week periods from May 30 through Sept. 4. Three of the slots — from June 13 through July 24 — have been filled by North Carolina Baptist Men, Texas Baptist Men, and South Carolina Men's Ministry.



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

Y2K: The Unseen Bug Threatening to Eat the World

Unless you just arrived here after a 10-year stay in the Peru rainforest, you probably have read, heard, and even been frightened by the Y2K Millennial Bug. Literally everybody is talking about it, or listening about it.

The responses to the "bug" are varied; there are some who have, or are, in the process of moving to some remote area of the world building windmills, erecting solar panels, and storing food, water, and ammunition.

Others respond to the "bug" only to make a casual joke about it.

The "Y2K" or "Year 2000" problem is a computer dilemma which means that, unless corrected, many computers will not make the journey with us into the new millennium.

According to the proposed scenario those computers which have not been fixed will shut down, and in turn they will shut down other computers that in turn will shut down even other computers.

Eventually, whether it is a financial transaction or energy needs, whether it is food or transportation, the world will be brought to a standstill.

"TEOTWAWKI" has become the catchword for those who adopt the most extreme views of Y2K. "TEOTWAWKI" stands for "The End of the World as We Know It." Since I am not a "computer programmer, or the son of a computer programmer," I hesitate to address this issue, but I must!

The fact is, that regardless of what is ahead, there are some unchanging realities that we ought to remember:

1. Be reasonable — not irrational: Can there be disruptions and problems related to Y2K? The answer has to be a probable "yes," but the same answer can be given for hurricanes and tornadoes, and ice storms and floods.

Hysterics are not a good guide to get us through any of life's problems. "Chicken Little" really did believe the sky was falling and was able to convince others that it was.

Panic rarely solves problems. Is it dumb to do something in preparation for Y2K? No, but what would you do about other disruptions in life: storms, sickness, and such?

We've all been there and we've all responded to due, thoughtful, and planned preparations which oftentimes were ultimately unneeded, but at the same time were not wasted.

2. Be Christian — not inconsiderate: I listened to one man who was describing his preparation, which included being armed-to-the-hilt ready to kill anyone who even thought about coming towards his home in order to find help, food, or refuge there.

It is of great importance that each of us not lose sight of being Christian, that we keep a perspective on life, and regardless of the impact of Y2K, we are not controlled by that little "bug," but by our great Savior!

In parabolic form in Matt. 25, Jesus talked about his Kingdom people, seeing people who were hungry and thirsty, and feeding them and giving them drink.

Do not rewrite the parable for Y2K in un-Christian terms as if the Bible might read, "If you see your neighbor hungry, shoot him; or if he's thirsty, kill him."

If times are tough, for whatever reason, it is a great opportunity of sharing, as best we can, in the love and in the name of our Lord Jesus.

3. Be confident — not cowardly: Strangely and sadly, some of the people who are talking the most about Y2K and who are whipping people up into an emotional frenzy, are Christians.

Do you suppose that Y2K will surprise God, or even worse, do you for a moment think Y2K will put him out of business? Of course not!

Do you suppose that Y2K can destroy any of the promises of our Lord? Absolutely not!

Some people who would strongly affirm that God is able to part the Red Sea, work miracles among us, and move a great stone from over the tomb so that life can replace death, seem to be scared witless by this "bug."

We all might be far better served if we turned our hearts toward the Lord Jesus in surrender and in faith, rather than spending endless hours studying survival tactics.

The great old hymn reminds us, *"This is my Father's world, Oh let me 'ner forget, that though the wrong seems 'oft so strong, God is the ruler yet."*

He was, he is, and yes, "Amen," he always will be! May the God of peace bless you as you keep seeking and serving him.

BHS to hold pair of events on June 5

Baptist Health Systems (BHS) will hold its first-ever "Protect, Detect, & Survive" cancer awareness day from 9 a.m.-noon on June 5 at Baptist Medical Center, located at 1225 N. State Street in Jackson. Visitors to the event can take advantage of information and activities which can enhance summer safety; participate in an interactive health risk assessment; and fill a free Summer Survival Kit with sunscreen, sunglasses, summer recipies, and other items. Registration is requested.

The day will also include the annual observance of Cancer Survivors' Day from 12:30-2:30 p.m. in the Colonnades Medical Office Building adjacent to the main hospital building. Cancer survivors and loved ones of people with cancer are invited to attend. To register for "Protect, Detect, and Survive," or for more information on either event, contact the Baptist Health Line toll-free at (800) 948-6262.

JUST FOR THE RECORD

First Church, Crystal Springs, recently held a recognition service for its GAs. First through fifth-graders honored were (pictured, from left, back row) Anna Beasley, Barbara Dotson, Elizabeth Shull, and Jackie Lang; (third row) Molly McNeil, Tiffany Traylor, Jessica Aldy, Brooklyn Miller, and Brooke Deaton; (second row) Katie Sprouse and Jessica Dotson; (first row) Kara Stafford, Caroline Mosley, Madelon Cline, Aimee Walters, Angela Shull, and Clair Mitchell.

Sixth-graders were Amelia Shull, Jennifer Harris, Rachel Berry, Kellie Walters, and Jenna Johnson.



GAs of First Church, Crystal Springs (1st-5th grades)



GAs of First Church, Crystal Springs (6th grade)

Harmony Church, Clarke County, recently held ground breaking ceremonies for a new building that will consist of Sunday School rooms, fellowship hall, and kitchen. Members of the building committee are Authur Duke; Ed Minella; Mike Campbell; Eddie Painter, pastor; Donnie Kemp; Joey McLeod; Rhonda Kennedy; Phyllis Griffin; Rebecca Sinclair; and Tom McLeod. Not pictured is Edd Holloman.



Harmony Church ground breaking



Mission team from Pleasant Hill Church

Pleasant Hill Church, Calhoun Association, will team up this summer with Bradford Chapel, to participate in Volunteer Missions. The group will join local volunteers on June 3-6 in Dover, Delaware, to minister to race fans at Dover Downs Raceway. The team will have an opportunity to participate in tract ministry and the Sunday morning Raceway Chapel service, as well as using the Pleasant Hill puppet team to entertain and instruct the track's younger visitors and the campers who attend.

Pictured (from left, back row) are Melanie Pryor (Bradford Chapel), Theresa Bailey (puppet team leader), Brandi Jenkins, Drew Holland, Clay Jenkins, pastor of Pleasant Hill Church; and Michael Keeton; (front row) Bridget Bailey, Lauren Autry, and Haley Parker.

STAFF CHANGES

First Church, Waveland, has called **Mark Vandiver** as pastor. A native of Lawrenceville, Ga., Vandiver is a graduate of the University of Georgia and presently pursuing a degree at New Orleans Seminary. His wife Angie is employed in the accounting office at the seminary.



Vandiver

Arrowood Church, Meridian, has called **Ralph Henson** as pastor, effective May 16. He is a graduate of Clarke College, William Carey College, and New Orleans Seminary. Henson previously served a church in Petal. He also served churches in Alabama and Louisiana and was assistant professor of religion at Northeast Louisiana University for seven years.

Briar Hill Church, Florence, has called **Danny Michael Panter Jr.** as the summer youth intern effective May 16. A native of Florence, Panter received his education at William Carey College and plans on attending Southwestern Seminary in the Fall. His previous place of service was Cedar Grove Church, Columbia.

Bob Rogers has resigned as pastor of First Church, Poplarville, to accept the call to pastor First Church, Rincon, Ga., effective June 4. Rogers has been at the Poplarville church for seven years, and has pastored churches in Mississippi for 19 years. His new address is 201 E. 6th St., Rincon, GA 31326.



Rogers

Springdale Church, Ripley, has called **Randy Hamilton** as pastor effective June 6. He received his education at Blue Mountain College. His previous place of service was Beulah Church, Myrtle.

First Church, Tunica, has called **Danny Smith** of Walls as pastor effective May 1.

Center Ridge Church, Yazoo County, has called **Mike Sutton** as pastor effective May 1. A native of Alabama, Sutton received his education at Tennessee Temple University and New Orleans Seminary. He previously served at Union Church, Tylertown.

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The Mississippi Baptist Foundation (MBF) recently held a reception for Mississippi students and their spouses on the campuses of Southwestern and New Orleans Seminaries.

"Forms were made available for students to apply for financial assistance for the coming semester," said Jane Newell, associate director of MBF. "Both receptions were so well attended that we plan to do this each year."

For more information, call MBF at (601) 292-3210 in Jackson, or toll free (800) 748-1651.

The Mississippi Baptist Foundation



Amanda Gibbons of Jackson signs the guest register at the MBF reception on the New Orleans Seminary campus held March 4.



Mark Jones of Clinton, with son, Andrew; Danny Davis of Petal; Newell; and E. Harold Fisher Jr., executive-director of MBF visit during the MBF reception held March 2 at Southwestern Seminary, Dallas.

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS

Matthew 10:27 NAS

June 3, 1999 **HouseTops** is a **Baptist Record** supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's **Office of Communication.**

Sunday School Leadership Training

Two great training opportunities now in two locations!

"Gulfshore North"
September 10-11
Calvary Baptist Church
Tupelo

Special Guests:
David Grumbach
David Prevost
Blue Mountain BSU Drama Team

For information
contact the Sunday School Department, MBCB
601-968-3800 or 1-800-748-1651

"Glorieta on the Gulf"
September 17-18
First Baptist Church
Gulfport

For information
or to register, call or write:
Gulf Coast Baptist Association,
P. O. Box 2369, Gulfport, MS 39505
228-832-4311

Sponsored by:
Gulf Coast Baptist Association
Jackson County Baptist Association
Pearl River Baptist Association
Sunday School Department,
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

A Ministry of Your Cooperative Program
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

1999 Concert Tour

June 5 6:30 p.m.	**Petal, Miss.** 600 South Main Street Petal-Harvey Baptist Church	601-583-1743
June 6 10:15 a.m. (Service)	**Jackson, Miss.** 3102 Monticello Drive Hillcrest Baptist Church	601-372-0132
June 6 6:00 p.m. (Service)	**Southaven, Miss.** 8352 Farmington Dr. W. Carriage Hills Baptist Church	662-342-1772
June 7 7:00 p.m.	**Hopkinsville, Ky.** 1400 South Main Street First Baptist Church	502-886-1216
June 8 11:00 a.m.	**Nashville, Tenn.** 108 7th Avenue South First Baptist Church	615-664-6010
June 9 6:30 p.m.	**Chattanooga, Tenn.** 7025 E. Brainerd Road Concord Baptist Church	423-892-9313
June 10 7:00 p.m.	**Tupelo, Miss.** 300 North Church Street First Baptist Church	662-842-1327
June 11 7:00 p.m.	**Jackson, Miss.** 168 Colonial Dr. Alta Woods Baptist Church	601-372-8651

NO ADMISSION CHARGE

Sponsored by the Church Music Department
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

A Ministry of the Cooperative Program
"Helping to Bring Mississippi and the World to Jesus"



WMU/Habitat Community Project



"Building West Park with love"

COMMUNITY MINISTRY PROJECT

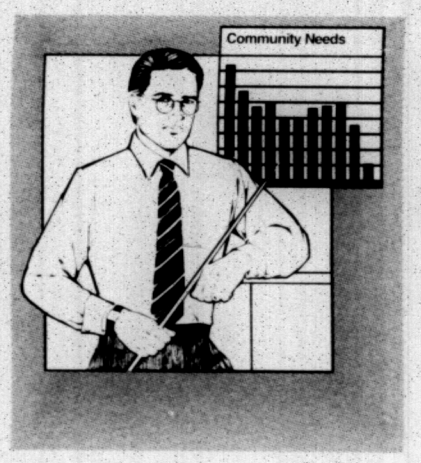
- Sports Camps
- Legal Seminars
- Door-to-Door Evangelism
- Medical Clinics
- Park Revival
- Neighborhood Bible Clubs

RAISING MONEY FOR HOUSES

Mississippi WMU is raising funds to build two Habitat for Humanity houses in Jackson. Each of these houses will cost $20,000 to build. Therefore Mississippi WMU needs to raise $40,000 to fund the building of both homes.

$10	a floor joist	$50	an interior door
$20	a 50 lb. box of nails	$75	8 sheets of wallboard
$25	a roof truss	$100	3 boxes of flooring material
$40	5 gallons of paint	$250	50 bundles of roof shingles

For more info, contact
Tammy Anderson, WMU, 1-800-748-1651 or 601-292-3323



PLANNING PROCESS for the NEW CHURCH YEAR 1999 - 2000

New brochure available featuring the following areas

- The Pastor as Leader
- The Church Leadership Team (Church Council)
- Gather Resources to Aid in Planning
- Write or Review Church Mission Statement
- Study the Church and Community Needs
- Select a Few Priorities
- Set Challenging Goals
- Develop Action Plans to Accomplish Your Priorities
- Develop a Correlated Church Calendar
- Build Your Church Budget
- Present Plans, Calendar, and Budget to Church for Adoption
- Meet Regularly to Review
- Celebrate the Victories
- Additional Ideas/Suggestions

To obtain a copy, contact
Church Administration and Pastoral Ministries, MBCB
1-800-746-1561 or 601-968-3800



1999 Family Week at Gulfshore

"Developing the Family Foundation"
July 5-9

Monday, July 5, 1:30 p.m.-Registration
Friday, July 9, 10:00 a.m.-Dismiss

Conferences

Couples and Men/Women
Scotty and Judy Shows
Bellevue, Memphis

Living God's Word
Frank Gunn
Biloxi

Single Parenting

Mini-Centrifuge
Youth

TeamKID
Preschool & Children

- **Perspectives**
- **Bar-B-Que Cook-Out**
- **One Free Day**
- **Night Swimming**
- **Ice-cream / Watermelon Fellowship**



Music, magic, puppet and humor
Jim Chester
Slidell, La.

Special Guests
The "Naturals"
Mississippi College

Registration for Family Retreat

Name of Adults _____
Address _____
Phone _____
Children's names/birthdays _____
Church _____ Association _____

Mail to: Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, 100 First Street
Pass Christian, MS 39571.(Visa Card is accepted.)
For more information call 228-452-7261.

Deposit: $30 per person or $60 per family. For pastors or staff and their wives - for every three paid families, get one adult's expenses free.

Cost Per Person - Room/Meals/Reservation:

"A" Unit
Adult (12 years and up) .....$156.40 each
Child (2-11 years old) .....$ 77.95 each
Under 2 years old .....$ 4.00 each

"C" Unit
Adult (18 years and up) .....$142.40 each
Youth (12 years - 12th grade)$ 76.90 each
Child (2 - 11 years old).....$ 44.45 each
Under 2 years old .....$ 4.00 each

1999
Sunday School/Discipleship Training Directors Seminars

For all church and associational Sunday School and Discipleship Training directors and directors of missions. No registration fee.

August 10
North Batesville Baptist Church, Batesville
Panola Association, (662)563-7439

August 12
Temple Baptist Church
Hattiesburg, (601)544-1794



Randy C. Millwood
Assistant Professor of Christian Education
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary



Mark Marshall
Leader Development Specialist in Discipleship
LifeWay Christian Resources Nashville

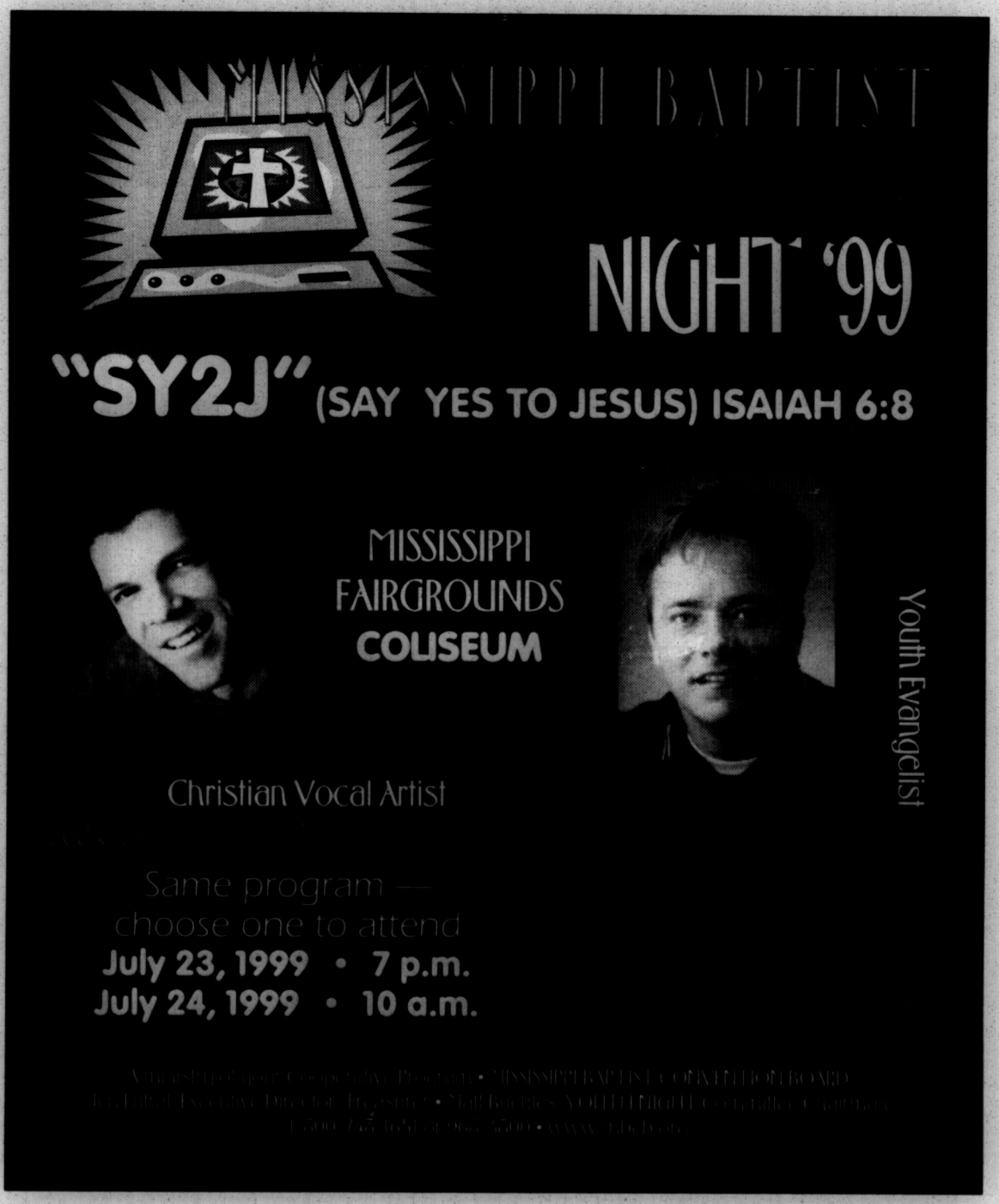
6:00 p.m.	Supper - Call numbers listed for reservation
6:45	"Reaching People Through Sunday School/ Discipleship Training" - Randy Millwood
7:45	Break
8:00	Break out conferences "Transformational Discipleship" Mark Marshall "Sunday School for a New Century" John Clendinning (Sunday School General Administration Consultant, MBCB) David Wills (Sunday School Director, MBCB)
9:00	Adjourn

A ministry of our Cooperative Program, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board
Sunday School Department and Discipleship and Family Ministry Department
P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205, 1-800-748-1651 or 968-3800 local.

HELP OUR RETIRED PASTORS AND FAMILIES



June 27 is "Adopt-An-Annuitant" Sunday in Southern Baptist churches. More than 9,000 of our retired ministers or their survivors who receive an Annuity Board benefit receive less than $200 each month. Some are living in real life poverty. You can help. Let the Annuity Board show you how. Send for more information and for bulletin inserts available from the Annuity Board at P.O. Box 2190, Dallas, TX 75221.



1999
Professional Certification for Ministry Assistants and Ministry Office SkillShops



Camp Garaywa, Clinton



PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION
August 17-19,1999
NELL COLLINS, certified church secretary instructor for LifeWay Christian Resources, and administrative assistant, First Baptist Church, Longview, Tex.



MINISTRY OFFICE SKILLSHOPS
August 17-19,1999
GLENDA SUGGS, certified church secretary instructor for LifeWay Christian Resources, and ministry assistant, Mt. Vernon Baptist Church, West Monroe, La.

Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries Department
1-800-748-1651 or 601-968-3800

Pray this day for...

June 4 - June 17,1999

Prayer Ministry Office • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone 968-3800, Ext. 3904 • Mississippi PrayerLine **1-800-787-PRAY**

Excerpts from "A PURITAN'S PRAYER"
My Dear Lord. I long for nothing but Thyself. nothing but holiness. nothing but union with Thy will. . . .My soul longs for communion with Thee. for mortification of indwelling corruption. especially spiritual pride. . . . Lord. give me more of Thy likeness: Enlarge my soul to contain fullness of holiness: Engage me to live more for Thee. . . . Wrap my life in divine love. and keep me ever desiring Thee. always humble and resigned to Thy will. more fixed on Thyself. that I may be more fitted for doing and suffering.

Spirit of Revival & Awakening Journal
North American Mission Board. SBC

Religious Liberty Sunday (CAC Emphasis). Pray for peace across Indonesia during the final days of political campaigns, in preparation for the elections that will be held on June 7. Ask God to raise up the kind of leaders who can lead that nation according to His will.

7

Ask the Lord to raise up leaders for each of the new "preaching points" in the Samburu District of Kenya. In six months, the number of preaching points has increased to more than 75. Pray that missionary Don Dolifka will be able to establish more training centers for new church leaders.

For GA Summer Camp, Camp Garaywa (WMU, Baptist Building Staff Planning Week. Pray for the health of Billy Graham and Ruth Graham as they continue to serve Christ faithfully even during pain and suffering.

For Royal Ambassador/ Challenger Camp, Central Hills Retreat (Men's Ministry); GA Summer Camp, Camp Garaywa (WMU); Brazilian Baptists have appointed a single career missionary to reach the Susu in Guinea. Pray for this missionary as she prepares to travel to Guinea in early June.

For III Youth Conference, Gulfshore Assembly (Mississippi Baptist Convention Board); Partnership Committee Meeting at the Baptist Building.

8

For the Southern Baptist Convention, Atlanta, Ga. Amy Reed is involved in weekday ministries in Waterbury, Conn. She will finish her US/C-2 term in August. She asks prayer as she looks for a job after the term ends and as she plans to be married November 6.

Because of Hurricane Mitch, approximately 163 families relocated to the community of Ilanga, Honduras. The Baptist association is working with these families, helping to construct houses for those who lost their homes. Pray for the new mission church that has resulted from this outreach.

Don Otwell, who works with deaf in Bryceville, Fla. asks for prayer for the annual Florida Baptist Conference of the Deaf, June 25-27 and a summer camp for the deaf children and youth, July 26-30. Pray for Tampa Baptist Deaf Church and His Hands Deaf Mission in Miami, both of which are without pastors.

Missionaries Todd and Anne Beel and David and Ann Boyter are serving on a team that is targeting the southeastern side of Mexico City. Ask God to provide Mexican Baptist partners to help them reach this part of the city for Christ.

10

For V Youth Conference, Gulfshore Assembly (Mississippi Baptist Convention Board). Raymundo Garcia is a Messenger of the Word, pastoring First Southern Baptist Mission, Scottsdale, Ariz. Pray for the Spanish Fellowship of Arizona and for Raymundo as he serves as president.

For the International Family Event, FBC, Starkville (Equipping Team); II Youth Conference, Gulfshore Assembly (Mississippi Baptist Convention Board)

4

Pray for a family in Vietnam who has had several members accept Christ in the past few months. The mother's health is failing fast. Ask God to demonstrate His presence and love through this difficult experience so that His name will be glorified and others will believe.

The church where missionaries Ron and Alana Greenwich are members in Brazil is reaching to community through social ministries. Three young men who have been involved in drugs and alcohol are coming to their weekly Bible Studies. Pray that they will each make a commitment to the Lord and be an influence upon the other young men in their crowd.

For IV Youth Conference, Gulfshore Assembly (Mississippi Baptist Convention Board); Women on Mission to SBC, Atlanta, Ga. (WMU).

12

BSU — Christ Centered — Student Led — Church Related

Your Invitation to Involvement

1999 ON-TO-COLLEGE EMPHASIS

"Equipping for Good Works"

II Timothy 3:14-17

GET INVOLVED: ON-TO-COLLEGE DAY

What is it? On-To-College Day recognizes students as they enter classes in the fall. It is observed on a special Sunday of your choice either in July or early August. Included are all students whether they remain in the community or leave home to attend college, and whether beginning college or a returning student. This emphasis typically includes an On-To-College worship service with an optional luncheon.

WORSHIP SERVICE

Plan a Sunday morning worship service in July or early August to recognize all students who are 'on to college' for the fall term.

- Recognize each student, including their name, address, phone number and choice of college in the order of worship and church newsletter.
- Recognize the parents and families of students.
- Recognize all of the college ministry and college workers.
- Recognize the Baptist Student Union Director, if present.
- Recognize the college ministry personnel in your church and community, including teachers and volunteers.

PRAYER COVENANT

- Ask the church to covenant to pray for each student.
- Ask the church to write a note of encouragement to each student.
- Enlist and recognize prayer partners to pray for the students as they begin school.

ON-TO-COLLEGE Day and the BSU

Establishing a relationship between the student and BSU through On-To-College Day encourages the student to visit the BSU when school begins. It also connects the student to a vital spiritual fellowship on campus.

- Invite the BSU to share in On-To-College Day.
- Ask the director or a student representative to share in the program.
- Invite a BSU ensemble or drama team to share in worship.

ON-TO-COLLEGE DAY LUNCHEON

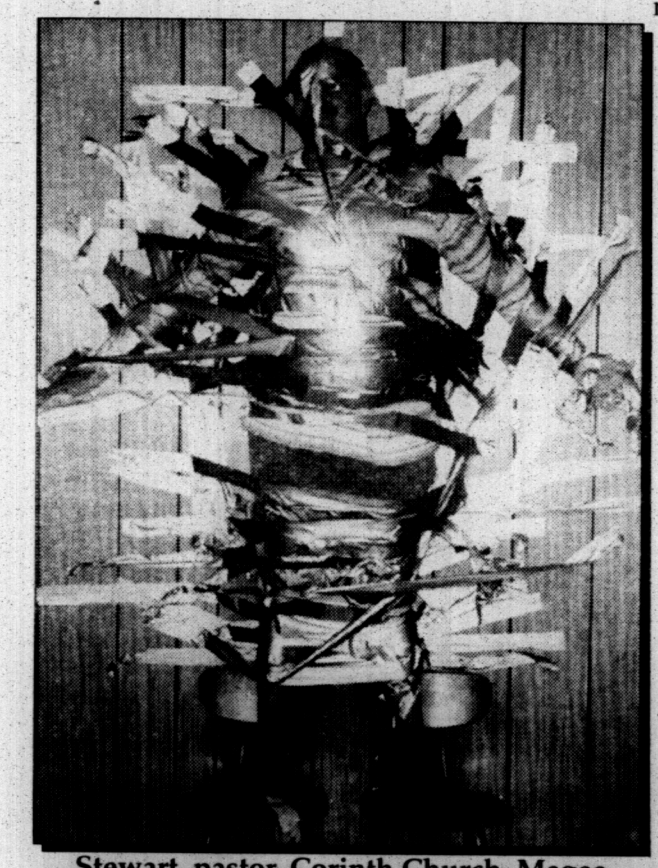
- A luncheon after church is a great time for last good-byes and sharing addresses.
- Make it casual and informal.
- Recognize those leaders that made On-To-College Day a great success.
- Draw names for prayer partners for the fall semester.

HOUSE TOPS

JUST FOR THE RECORD

Malmaison Church, Carroll County, will hold a dedication service for the expansion and renovation of the sanctuary on June 13 at the 11 a.m. worship hour. Open house will be held from 2-4 p.m.

Youth of Corinth Church, Magee, recently participated in the American Cancer Society Relay for Life. As a fundraiser, the youth, "taped" their pastor Dean Stewart to the wall (pictured). Stewart is a survivor of renal cell carcinoma, a form of cancer normally seen in children. The youth raised $625 that goes to research for a cure for cancer.



Stewart, pastor, Corinth Church, Magee

GAs, RAs, and Acteens of First Church, Itta Bena, stuffed eggs with money to help reach the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering Goal of $1,500. They collected and presented to the church, on Easter Sunday morning, an Easter basket filled with many colorful "money" eggs. The church went over its goal and collected $1,941.57. Pictured (first row) are Kendra Fulgham, Dawn Mueller, Brice Fulgham, Jacob Coleman, Anita Lovelace, Mary L. Barlow, Alex Fulgham; (second row) leader, Bobbye Gayle Makamson, Mandy Land, Erin Hopkins, Mindy Brasel, Kristy Vail, Johnny Brasel, Kevin Mueller, Kendall Mueller; (third row) Suzanne Brasel and George Ann Vail, leaders.



GAs, RAs, and Acteens of First Church, Itta Bena



Bowlin Church, Sallis, held baby dedication day on May 9. Pictured (from left) are John David Morris Sr. and wife Jennifer, presenting John David Morris Jr.; Bobby G. Oakes, pastor; John David White and wife Ashley, presenting Phil Cody White; Darleen E. Moore presenting Elysia Day Moore.

Salem Church, Collins, will celebrate its 125th anniversary on June 13 at 10 a.m. with dinner on the grounds at noon. Brett Golson is pastor.

West Heights Church, Pontotoc, will hold a youth rally on June 12 at 7 p.m. in the Family Life Center. Special guest will be Chili Graham of Lafayette, La., and special music by "3:16" of Jackson. Graham will also lead a youth occult seminar on June 16 at 6 p.m. Youth minister is Stephen Evans. David Hamilton is pastor.

Revival dates

Canaan, Ashland: June 7-9; 7 p.m.; Bob Holland, Saltillo, evangelist; Reggie Bridges, pastor.

South 28th Avenue Church, Hattiesburg: June 6-11; Sunday, dinner on the grounds followed by afternoon service; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Jim Hill and his family will serve as evangelistic staff; Leonard Walters, pastor.

Mt. Carmel, Edinburg: June 6-10; Sun, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Thurs., 7 p.m.; Jimmy Dale Porter, McComb, evangelist; Mike Rives, Edinburg, music; Keith Fulton, pastor.

Coila (Carroll): June 7-11; 7:30 p.m.; C. C. Burns, Enterprise, evangelist; Wilton Neal, North Carrollton, music.

Harmony (Clarke): June 13-16; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Campers on Mission will help build new addition during the day and lead revival services each evening.

ESCORTED TOURS — GO FREE WITH 16 OTHERS

PARADE OF FOLIAGE COLORS - Oct. 19-22 - 4 days ◆ $398
Escorted by Jim & Joy Yates, FBC - Yazoo City ◆ Lookout Mountain, Gatlinburg, CHRISTUS GARDENS, Pigeon Forge, shows, GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK, Cherokee Village. **Call TODAY.**

PAPA NOEL & FESTIVAL of LIGHTS - Dec. 3-5 - 3 days ◆ $278
With Jim & Joy Yates ◆ Louisiana CAJUN Christmas, Festival of Lights in Natchitoches on opening weekend, parade, Turning on the Lights, fireworks, exhibits, Christmas at Kent House.

HOLY LAND - EGYPT & ATHENS - Feb. 14-24 ◆ $1899 Deluxe
With David Ray who has led groups to these areas for years ◆ Mars Hill, Acropolis, Old Corinth, Great Pyramids, Jerusalem, Nazareth, Capernaum, Mt. of Beatitudes, Mt. of Olives, Bethlehem ◆ **SAVE $100 - make your reservations now.**

TREASURES of TURKEY - FOOTSTEPS of PAUL & CHURCHES of REVELATION ◆ March 20-31 ◆ $1699 Deluxe
With David Ray ◆ Cappadocia, Alpine Region, Tarsus, Lystra, Derbe, Iconuim, Colossae, Cotton Castles, Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Istanbul, Golden Horn Cruise ◆ **RESERVE NOW & SAVE $100.**

OBERAMMAGAU GERMANY PASSION PLAY
Miss it and you'll have to wait 'til 2010!

EUROPE EAST & PASSION PLAY - May 20 - June 5 ◆ East Germany, Poland, Hungary, Czechslovakia included ◆ **NEARLY SOLD OUT!**
GRAND EUROPE & PASSION PLAY - June 9-29 ◆ Belgium, Holland, Switzerland, Italy, French Riviera, TGY Super Train, Paris ◆ **First Class.**
DELIGHTS in EUROPE & PASSION PLAY - July 17-31 ◆ London, White Cliffs of Dover, Holland, Austria, the Tyrol, Venice, the Alps ◆ **First Class.**
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VBS dates

Harmony Church, Crystal Springs: June 7-11; 9 a.m.-12 noon; children ages 3-6th grade. For more information, call (601) 892-1121.

Glade, Laurel: June 7-11; 8-11 a.m.; children age 3-grade 6; Sherry Landrum will direct the VBS; Mike Thompson, pastor.

Lakeshore, Jackson: June 6-11; 6-8:30 p.m.; kick-off, June 5, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

Wayside, Vicksburg: June 7-11; 8:30-11:30 a.m.; Larry W. Haggard, pastor.

First Church of Runnelstown, Petal: June 7-11; 8-11 a.m.; nursery age-6th grade; Rochelle Carter, director of the school.

Briar Hill, Florence: June 7-11; 8:30-11 a.m.; 3 years old-6th grade; family night, Friday, 7 p.m.; Malcolm Pinion, pastor.

Terry Road, Jackson: June 7-11; 8:30-11 a.m.; 3-17 years old.

Cloverdale, Natchez: June 21-25; 8:30-11:30 a.m.; David McGuffee, pastor; call Kathy Saunders at (318) 336-7347 for more information.

Escatawpa, Escatawpa: June 28-July 2; 9 a.m.-noon.

Baptist College News

Mississippi College Office of Continuing Education is sponsoring The ABC's of Summer Camp this summer, offering a full selection of summer kids' camps. Selections offered are Art Adventure for grades four-six, June 1-4; Art Adventure for grades one-three, June 7-11; Sculpture camp, June 14-18, for students entering grades one-three, and June 21-25, for grades four-six; Basic Study Skills, July 26-30, for students entering grades four through eight; and Creative Improvisation for Kids, June 14-18, for students entering grades two through six. For registration information, contact Krisi Lee at (601) 925-3301.

William Carey College athletic department will sponsor a Fast Pitch Softball Camp June 17-19 for girls age nine and up. Fees are $100 for day camp; $150 for dorm camp; and $140 per participant for dorm camp group of 10 or more. The fee will include meals, insurance, and T-shirt. An application may be obtained by contacting Coach Carrie Byrd at (601) 582-6431. Deadline for registration is June 11. For more information on baseball camps, call (601) 582-6110; basketball camps, (601) 582-6111; and softball camps, (601) 582-6431.

Honors Day was held recently at William Carey College. Receiv-ing awards and honors were Matthew Snowden of Meridian and Mandy Trammell of Flor-ence, Jenkins-Chastain Citizen-ship Award; Charla Jeter of Pascagoula, School Spirit Award; Brian Lucas of Petal, Leadership Award, also Mr. William Carey College; Laura Ann Dowdle of Brandon, Ms. William Carey College; Tom Huebner, assistant professor of communications, Outstanding Faculty Award; Bennie Crockett, professor of religion, Outstanding Administrator of the Year Award; Merryl Cooper, director of student activities, Outstanding Staff Member of the Year; James Mitchell of Hattiesburg, Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship; Amy Hinton of Laurel, Phi Delta Kappa Outstanding Student Teacher Award; and Karen Kennedy, Wall Street Journal Award.

Carey Dinner Theatre will celebrate its 25th anniversary with the presentation of "Clue, The Musical," June 10-26, in O. L. Quave Theatre on the Hattiesburg campus of William Carey College. The second production of the season, "Stardust," will be presented July 6-17. The box office will be open from 10 a.m. until 7 p.m. daily except Sunday, and seats may be reserved by calling (601) 582-6221.



William Carey College Winters School of Music students recently received awards at the state convention of the National Association of Teachers of Singing held at Hinds Community College in Raymond. Bevin McRoberts (left) of Plymonth, Mass., and Karen Smith (right) of McComb won the state vocal competition. They are students of Josephine D'Arpa (center), associate professor of music.

MS Positions Available

PART-TIME MUSIC MINISTER. Sunday is only day of service required. Out-of-town applicants welcomed. Weekend accommodations will be provided. Send resume to: Providence Baptist Church, c/o Nina Taylor, 301 Fayette Davis Avenue, Cleveland, MS 38732.

MINISTER OF MUSIC POSITION open. Oakvale Baptist Church. Please send resume to Betty Daniels, 230 Connerly, Oakvale, MS 39656.

PART-TIME MINISTER OF YOUTH Bethesda Baptist Church, 13628 Midway Road, Terry, MS 39170. Inquiries to Ina Worthy, Personnel Committee, 15920 Midway Road, Terry, MS 39170.

PART-TIME MINISTER OF MUSIC, Bethesda Baptist Church, 13628 Midway Road, Terry, MS 39170. Inquiries to Ina Worthy, Personnel Committee, 15920 Midway Road, Terry, MS 39170.

BI-VOCATIONAL MINISTER OF MUSIC is needed at Gunter Road Baptist Church. Send resumes to Dick Steadman, 1220 Gunter Road, Florence, MS 39073. Call 601-932-4134 or 601-939-2542.

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EXCITING, DYNAMIC YOUTH PASTOR (student minister) looking for a full time position. Call, email, or write for more information. Phone 228-769-6281, email shawnp@earthlink.com Shawn Panni, 809 Seacove, Pascagoula, MS 39581-2126.

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SEEKING FULL-TIME MINISTER OF Music/Youth, First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 88, Harrisburg, AR 72432.

TEACHERS NEEDED for Mother's Morning Out Program (Wed. and Fri. 8 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.). Paid positions. Trace Ridge Baptist Church, Ridgeland, MS. Call 601-853-2572 or 601-856-2529.

GARAGE SALE ITEMS NEEDED for Morrison Heights Baptist Church Mission Teams fundraiser, July 17. Donations of all items are being accepted until July 2. Please call Dennis or Tracy at (601) 925-6429 for more information.

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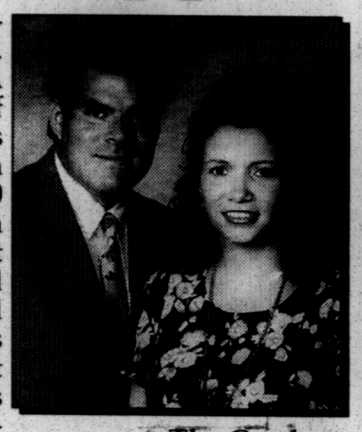
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Mississippians receive IMB appointments



The Crockers

RICHMOND, Va. (Special) — A number of Mississippians are set to join more than 4,500 Southern Baptist International Mission Board (IMB) workers sharing Christ in 126 countries among 336 ethnic people groups around the world.

G. Thomas (Tommy) Crocker Jr. and Ginger L. Higginbotham Crocker will live in Bolivia where recent increase in discipleship training holds promise for continued church growth. He will start and develop churches through sports ministries and she will be involved in a variety of outreach ministries.

Born in Hattisburg, Tommy Crocker is the son of George and Frances Crocker of Birmingham. Born in Sylacauga, Ala., Ginger Crocker is the daughter of the Wesley and Dot Higginbotham of that city.



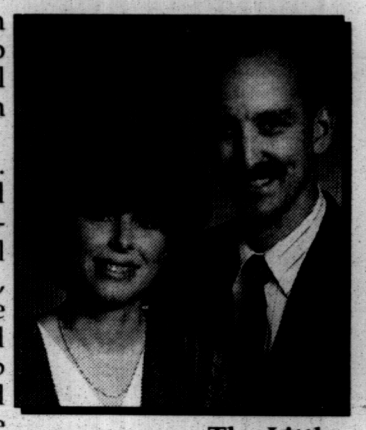
The Holyfields

While growing up she also lived in DeKalb.

Michael C. Holyfield and Patricia (Patsy) Puckett Holyfield will live in Russia. He will start and develop churches and she will be involved in a variety of outreach ministries. Currently he is interim pastor at Central Church, Bentonia. They are members of Park Place Church, Brandon.

Born in Jackson, Michael Holyfield is the son of Clyde and Mary Holyfield of Magee. While growing up he lived in Magee and considers it his hometown. He considers Park Place Church his home church.

Born in Jackson, Patsy Holyfield is the daughter of Jimmie and Earline Puckett of White Oak. She grew up in White Oak and considers Raleigh her hometown and Park Place Church her home church. Sardis Church in White Oak also was influential in her Christian growth.



The Littles

Robert A. (Bob) Little and Amy R. Morrison Little will serve in Guinea, West Africa. He will start and develop churches and she will be involved in a variety of outreach ministries.

Since 1991 they have been North American Mission Board church planters in Iowa, where he is pastor of newly constituted Bethany Baptist Church in Keokuk.

Born in Berea, Ohio, Bob Little is the son of Charles and Jean Little of Starkville. While growing up he also lived in Appleton and Burt, N.Y.; Macon, Ga.; Covington, Va.; and Starkville. He considers Starkville his hometown.

With nearly 16 million members, the Southern Baptist Convention is the largest evangelical denomination in the U.S.

Homecomings

Canaan, Ashland: June 6; potluck lunch and singing in the afternoon; Reggie Bridges, pastor.

Bethesda, Terry: June 6, 11 a.m.; dinner on the grounds following the morning service; Barry Boquet, message; Marty Wilson, pastor.

Smyrna, Hazlehurst: June 4, prayer service at 6 p.m.; June 5, service at 6 p.m. with Tim Chennault; June 6, Sunday School at 10 a.m., worship at 11 a.m.; followed by covered dish lunch; The Chalks will present an afternoon music concert at 1 p.m.

Interstate, Shaw: June 6; services, 11 a.m.; dinner on the grounds at noon; 1:30 p.m., Ian Richardson, music; Frankie McClelland, Butler, Ala., guest speaker; Robert Haney, pastor.

Indian Springs, Petal: June 6; George Berger, director of missions, Lebanon Association, will bring 11 a.m. message, followed by lunch; afternoon service with the Bibletones following lunch; Floyd Seymour, pastor.

Coila (Carroll): June 6; services beginning at 11 a.m.; C. C. Burns, Enterprise, speaker; lunch in fellowship hall; afternoon concert featuring Promised.

Calvary, Pricedale: June 6; worship service, 11 a.m.; dinner on the grounds following worship; Wayne McCullough, Jackson, guest speaker; song and praise service following lunch featuring D.C. Greer, Russ Greer, Micky Sandifer, and Randy and Janice Carruth,

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My son is going through a divorce and wants custody of his son. He's a Christian and doesn't plan to fight dirty, so what are his options?

Pray for and then seek out a good Christian lawyer who understands custody cases — not just a family friend but someone who has experience in this legal area. Custody is gained by proving that the other parent is not "fit" to take care of the child. Fathers who win custody usually are shown to be good providers, not only financially but emotionally. Your son does not have to fight dirty, but he will have to have family and/or friends who will testify to what they have seen when it comes to taking care of the child. In most cases the younger the child, the more likely the court will go with the mother. Encourage your son to be an example of righteousness and steadfastness. Patience is the key. Losing his temper out of frustration could do more to damage his cause than to win it.

I am so lonely I wish I had never been born. I often hate God. Why doesn't he care about single people?

Our society highlights coupling and when it doesn't happen for us as we anticipate, lonliness sets in. How do you know God does not have the right person out there for you? Like a cookie (I like cookies), a potential relationship has to "stay in the oven" until it is ready; take it out too soon or too late, and it just isn't good. Could it be that God is preparing the right person, waiting until both of you are ready? You must stay in his "oven" until he says it is time, and then he will bring each of you together. Stay in prayer and be open to the Holy Spirit.

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.



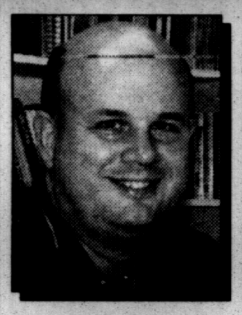
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Life and Work

Renew your worship

Malachi 1:1-14



Martin

By Tony Martin

Periodically, you'll hear debates over styles of worship in Southern Baptist churches. More than one church has felt itself in the grip of controversy as proponents of "traditional" worship strive against those who prefer "contemporary" worship. I'm not sure what those terms mean, but I do know that what often passes as a worship service is woefully distant from an encounter with God. If the temperature in the sanctuary is comfortable, the music pleasing, and if the pastor doesn't preach too long, then the service is palatable. But has worship actually happened? Or is it just a time to go through the motions, getting a spiritual "fix" until next week?

Ironically, this scenario is played out in the book of Malachi. We don't know much about Malachi; his name means "my messenger." The book itself paints a somber picture of what is happening in Judah. These people should have considered themselves blessed. They've rebuilt the historic temple under the leadership of Zerubbabel. Temple worship has been restored under Ezra. Nehemiah comes soon after to rebuild the walls and bring about many religious reforms. Twelve years later, he returns to serve the Persian king. Now, the people are prosperous, they're enjoying the "good life," and they're pretty indifferent to the things of God. It's sort of like the church with no debt, money in the bank, consistent numbers and financial giving, and spiritually stagnant as they "do church." Vision and a sense of destiny have been lost. What did Malachi lead the people to do?

Accept God's Love (1:1-5). "I have loved you," the Lord tells the people in verse 2, and what a sweet affirmation! It's not that we loved him, but that he loved us first. Then the people respond with a bizarre question: "How have you loved us?" As if all of their history and current wealth didn't answer that question!

God's response was to show that he chose Jacob over his brother Esau. God demonstrated his love by taking the initiative to establish that love relationship with us. His love inspires us to worship and praise him.

Offer God your best (1:6-9). God points out that even as he has called Judah into a right relationship with himself, the people have yet to honor him. It goes beyond being disrespectful; in essence, the people had shown contempt for God himself. Malachi uses the imagery of a father and son. A son was to honor his father, yet these people had dishonored their Heavenly Father. Malachi goes on to speak of the relationship of master and slave. If a slave respects his master, should not they respect their Master?

"How have we shown contempt for your name?" the people ask. God points to the moldy bread on the altar and the sick and injured animals offered as sacrifice. They were, in effect, giving God the worst they had - something they'd never do to an earthly ruler. Today, does God get our leftovers or the best we have to offer?

Recognize God's greatness (1:10-14). When we worship, we are expressing our heart's cry of who God is. True worship always honors and exalts God.

In an amazing display of ingratitude, we see the priests and Levites of Malachi's day, those who had been set apart to serve him, gripe about their "bonuses" from the sacrifices. They weren't satisfied with the offerings God had chosen for himself; they wanted the cuts of meat the people had kept for themselves. The people were bored with worship, and they sought to cheat God out of what had been committed to him. If those people — and we — had a proper understanding of who God was and a true reverence of him, then they'd worship him simply because they recognized his greatness.

Martin is Minister of Education at First Church, McComb.

Explore the Bible

Comfort received/given

2 Cor. 1:1-22



Dukes

By Ted Dukes

The story is told of a little girl who was late coming home from school. When her mother asked why she said, "My friend was crying because she had broken her doll." "And you stopped to help her fix it?" Mom asked. "No, I stopped to help her cry," the child replied.

Under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, Paul wrote to the Roman Christians, "Rejoice with those who rejoice and weep with those who weep" (12:15). This week's lesson is an expansion of that same thought directed toward the Corinthian church, and to us.

Background: The city of Corinth was set on the main land route between East and West. Also, several sea routes converged upon its two harbors. Consequently it was a prosperous city and became the capital of the Roman province of Achaia.

The establishment of the church in Corinth during Paul's second missionary journey is related in Acts 18. His evangelistic work began in the synagogue, but due to opposition from the Jewish community he turned his efforts to the Gentile population.

Paul's two letters to the Corinthians stand apart from his other epistles. While most of the apostle's other writings targeted doctrinal matters, I and II Corinthians were written in response to serious spiritual problems reported in that church. The Corinthians were spiritually immature, so Paul communicated basics (I Cor. 3:1-2) in order to address the serious rumors and settle the differences of opinion that were paralyzing the church (I Cor. 1:11).

Content: One need only read the introduction to II Cor. (1:1-11) to measure the love and goodwill that Paul felt toward these Christian men and women.

The words "comfort" and "consolation" have the same Greek root meaning "to come along side and help." It is the same word used by our Lord in reference to the Holy Spirit (John 14-16). These words are used ten times in II Cor. 1:1-11. Paul had learned that in difficult times he could look to the Lord. Perhaps he was reminded of the Psalmist's words: "I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth" (Ps. 121:1-2).

The Apostle reminds us that as Christians we identify with our Lord, and in our obedient service the "sufferings of Christ are ours in abundance" (1:5). If we are not meeting abundant resistance from the world as we live for Jesus, both personally and as a church, this peaceful coexistence becomes a commentary to our ineffectiveness. Note what Paul said in 1:7 about the reciprocal relationship between suffering and God's grace.

Paul expresses hope in intercessory prayer (1:10-11). Many times through his ministry he requested prayer for himself and the work (Rom. 15:30-32; Eph. 6:18-19; Phil. 1:19; Col. 4:3; I Thes. 5:25; II Thes. 3:1; Phil. 22). Paul believed in the power of prayer.

Application: This lesson is all about relationships: our relationship with God and how it serves as a pattern for our relationships with others. Paul stresses the importance of finding comfort in the Divine Comforter as an alternative to feeble attempts to stand on our own. It is incumbent upon us to reach out in the strength of the Holy Spirit and comfort others in their moment of suffering. The testimony of a Christian who has experienced the comfort of God in the crucible of pain means more than a thousand pious platitudes.

Our Savior is a suffering Savior, acquainted with grief. He made his way to Gethsemane for us in great sorrow (Matthew 26:37). Henri Nouwen expounds on the subject in his book, "The Wounded Healer." The Gospel's call is to participate in the humiliation and suffering of Christ. Such identification is prerequisite to participation in the exaltation of Christ (I Cor. 1:7; II Tim. 2:11-12). Our mission is to walk the via dolorosa in imitation of Christ, and take the gift of God's comfort to others.

Dukes is pastor of First Church, Crystal Springs.

Family Bible Series

Abundant provisions

Gen. 1:1-2, 20-25, 29-31



Arinder

By Grant Arinder

As long as history has been recorded mankind has sought to understand the creation. The Poet-King, after countless star lit nights tending his flock, penned these words: "When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him?" (Ps. 8:4)

The Family Bible Series for this quarter comes from the book of Genesis and begins with a unit on the "Beginnings of Humanity." Where better to study the purposes of the creation than in the words of the one who spoke it into existence.

A proper interpretation of Genesis 1 depends on asking the proper questions of the text. Improper and complicating issues arise when questions are based on faulty assumptions about the type of literature contained in the creation accounts. Genesis 1 is not a textbook or a scientific manual. It is a religious book with great theological truths. The attempt to interpret it from a purely rational and scientific point of view complicates interpretation and clouds understanding. What are some of these truths?

God is the author of creation. Genesis 1:1 states that, "In the beginning God created..." The important theological truth is that God is the author of creation. In Genesis 1, the question "how" is secondary to the question "who." Genesis 1:1 is about God; he is the subject. The universe owes its existence to God and to this day its marvelous design reflects a divine touch. The theological truth of Genesis 1 is that "in the beginning God! " (Cf. Ps. 19:1)

God is the agent and creation is the action. This may seem elementary, however, a flippant understanding of this fact may result in a poor understanding of the important theological truths within. The universe is no random accident, nor are we here by chance. Each of us is a stroke of color on the canvas of creation.

In the beginning. Before the beginning, God was. He lives outside of time. Time is a part of God's creation, which he started "in the beginning." Contrary to the theology espoused by the popular children's film, "The Lion King," and the eastern philosophy which pervades Hollywood, we are not on a great circle of life. We are not reincarnated, nor is the universe caught up in a never-beginning or ending circle. God ushered time into existence and he will usher it out.

Earth is a special place. "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." The passage seems to separate and designate earth as a special place in the cosmos. I must admit, as someone with a lifelong interest in astronomy and as a Star Trek fan, I was always intrigued by the possibility of other intelligent life forms. Yet, as I began to reconsider Genesis 1:1, I became increasingly convinced that earth is a unique place and that my intrigue with extraterrestrial life had more to do with fantasy and imagination than it did with theology or science. The possibility of other intelligent beings does not come without great theological implications. Moreover, Genesis 1:1 seems to suggest that earth is a unique and special place.

Man is a special creature. Evolution, or the reality of change in creation, is a fact, not a theory. The Theory of Evolution, however, is theory, not fact. Genesis 1:26-27 make it clear that mankind is the apex of God's creative work. The great theological truth of this passage is that man was made in the image of God. Just as earth is a special place in the universe, man is a special creature in the animal kingdom. God has made an abundantly special place for an abundantly special people.

Arinder is the pastor of First Church, Belzoni.

THE VILLAGE VIEW

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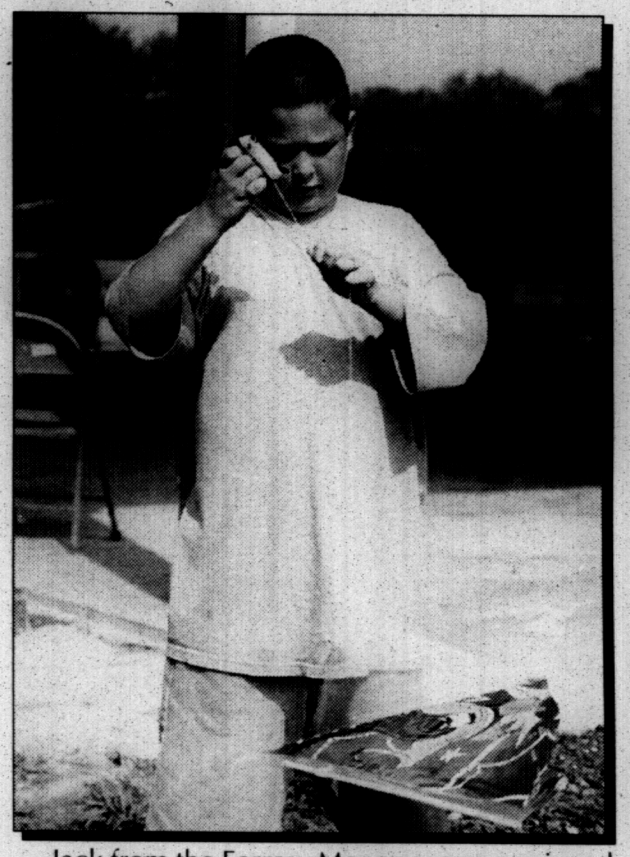
Misty and Amanda, both 8th graders on the Farrow Manor campus, won reading awards at Independence Junior High School.

Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of **The Village View** is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

APRIL 1-30, 1999
MEMORIALS

Father of Carolyn McNeel
Mr. & Mrs. Greg L. Peeples
Curtis Sanford "Doc" McNemar
Ms. Carlie Ann Davis
10:00 O'Clock Coffee Club
Mr. & Mrs. Ray L. Moore
DREAM, Inc.
Mr. & Mrs. Joe S. Pegram
Mr. John McPherson
Mr. & Mrs. Clifton Porter
Erica Mentink
Mrs. Joanne K. Bain
J. J. Meyers
Mrs. Essie Mae Meyers
J. P. Mills
Betty L. Carpenter
Mr. J. P. "Jake" Mills
Mr. & Mrs. Frank O. Crosthwait Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Bill H. Davis
Mr. F. Norris Mitchell
Rome Baptist Church
Mr. & Mrs. Agnew Safley
Mr. & Mrs. Glen King
Rev. Grady Mizell
Mr. & Mrs. Jesse L. Craft
Rev. & Mrs. W. Emmitt Moak
Dr. & Mrs. Darrell Robinson
Ava Ruth Moore
Mr. & Mrs. Joe H. Cleveland
Mrs. Lydia Morgan
Milligan Springs BC
Mrs. Maude Jernigan Morgan
Mr. & Mrs. Wayne McDonald
Aaron Moss, Sr.
Mr. & Mrs. Allen W. Clark II
Mrs. Winona Muirhead
Dave Cook & Family
Wayne Cook & Family
Alva & Ann Cook
Mike Cook
Marty Nathanson
Mr. & Mrs. Ron K. Phillips
Mr. Ronnie Earl Nations
Lauderdale Cty Baptist Assn
Mr. Walter Nelms
Mr. & Mrs. Ralph L. Carroll
L. D. Nicholson
The Jeff McClendon Family
Mr. & Mrs. L. T. Wade Jr.
L. D. "Nick" Nicholson
Mr. & Mrs. Cliff Bailey
Mrs. June Bowering
Mr. & Mrs. Laurance Carter
Mrs. Ethel Norris
Mrs. June Bowering
Caroline O'Brien
Ms. Eva E. Allen
Mrs. Sherra Orman
Mr. & Mrs. Clay English
Mrs. Mary Owens
Mr. & Mrs. Alton L. Fields
Bernice Othell Parker
Mr. Robert N. Walters
Dorthy Parker
Valley Park Baptist Church
Mr. Otis Parker
Dr. & Mrs. Reggie H. Broom
Joe Perkins
Mr. R. N. Humphreys
Marie M. Phillips
Ms. Cynthia D. Davis
Mrs. Alice S. Phillips
Mrs. Sam B. Bounds
Lunnie Woodard Pinson
Mr. & Mrs. William L. Butler
Mr. S. Rufus Pitts
Mrs. Imogene L. Penn
Mr. Fred D. Evans Jr.
Mrs. Virginia B. Carpenter
Mrs. Mildred Porter
Mr. & Mrs. Ron K. Phillips
Gladys Powe
Mr. & Mrs. George Burton
Mrs. Deloris Powell
Thirteenth Avenue Pharmacy
The Robert Sullivan Family
Mr. J. T. Preston
Stanton Baptist Church
M. A. Puckett
Valley Park Baptist Church
Mr. Wayne Pyron
Mr. & Mrs. Paul D. Allen
Mrs. Evelyn C. Cox
Ronnie Rainey
Mr. & Mrs. J. C. Rainey
Mrs. Eva Ray
Bovina Baptist Church
Mr. & Mrs. Ragan Walters
Reggie Reddock
Mr. & Mrs. Donald K. Robbins
Mr. Clifton Reeves
Mrs. Irene L. Brister
Thomas E. Rice, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Carroll Dolson
Mrs. Leona Rice
Mrs. Robbie Abel
Bethany Baptist Church
Mr. & Mrs. B. B. Burton
Mr. Tom Rice
Mr. & Mrs. Winfred Campbell
Mr. & Mrs. Gary J. Herring
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Long and Benny
Mrs. Edna R. Nowell
Mrs. Charlene Catledge
Charles Catledge
Mr. & Mrs. Billy Freeman
Mr. & Mrs. Keith D. Freeman
Mr. & Mrs. F. Ward Williams
Thomas I. Rice
William Farrar Keeler
John Patrick Keeler
Ms. Omazine Richardson
William Defenbaugh & Family
Grace R. Defenbaugh
Ms. Thelma Riddell
Mrs. Marie M. Scott
Mrs. Margaret June Riley
Herman, Sheron & Chris Coats
Mr. J. L. Robbins
Ricky & Pansy Ladner
Jason Roberson
Mr. Harry O'Neal Jr.
Corine Roberts
Ms. Juanita M. Hight
Gertie Mae Roberts
Leaf River BC
Lee Roy Robertson
Ruth SSC, FBC-Tupelo
Mrs. Lacie Robertson
Mr. & Mrs. Bill H. Davis
Mrs. Elizabeth Young Rogers
Ms. Mary C. Hope
Cox Deer Camp
Mrs. A. G. Bennett Sr.
Mr. & Mrs. W. D. Howell
Mr. & Mrs. L. C. Murphree
Mrs. Anita C. Crigler
Margaret Romig
Miss Jean Graves
Mrs. Claire Ross
Miss Earline Woods
Mr. M. T. Rotenberry
Sue Cook
Mrs. H. K. Rouse
Dr. & Mrs. C. Hal Cleveland
Peggy Dean Rouse
Mrs. Thelma Vancloostere
Dr. W. H. Rouse
Gary Karl Rullell
Mr. & Mrs. Ray L. Moore
Gary Russell
Mr. & Mrs. Ernest L. Scruggs
Mrs. Mary Y. Womack
Robert M. Russell
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Kimzey
Maxine Salley
Mr. & Mrs. Mack Grantham
Melissa Sanders
Mrs. Paulette McKinnon
Mrs. Carolyn Sandlin
Mr. and Mrs. Jimmie Manton
Mrs. Pat Sasser
Ora Baptist Church
Mr. Billy Saucier
Goss Baptist Church
Kathy Pryor Schaffer
Mr. & Mrs. Walter B. Moore
J. F. Schmitz
Mr. & Mrs. Hayes Branscome
Mrs. Mary York Sennett
Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Herbert
Richie, Frances & Grace Defenbaugh
Mrs. Agnes Shaidnaigle
Mr. & Mrs. Billy Mangold
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Shawblosky
Mrs. Lynn Morrow
Ms. Jean Tilghman
Mrs. Jean S. Moss
Mrs. Willie C. Townsend
Jerry & Ray Davis
Mrs. Mary Katherine Trussell
Mr. & Mrs. H. P. McCann
Katie Moorman Tyler
Mr. & Mrs. Charles L. Shelton
Mrs. Meddie Lee Valentour
Mr. & Mrs. Robert L. Bradford
Mr. & Mrs. Leon Burrage
A. Kent Van Cleave
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Whittington
Mr. Wesley Vandiver
Mrs. Louise S. Hisscox
Rev. T. L. Waldon
Ms. Jewell Turnage
Glen Wallace
Ms. Eva E. Allen



Jack from the Farrow Manor campus enjoyed the day flying his kite.

Jim Smith
Mr. & Mrs. Charles H. Thornton
Kathren Smith
Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Rhymes
Mrs. Clara Smith
Mr. & Mrs. William C. Russell Jr.
Mrs. Marcelle Smith
Mrs. J. M. Rutledge
Mrs. OnaFaye Smith
Mrs. Bertie Alyene Clark
Ralph R. Smith
Mr. & Mrs. Stanley Downs
Mr. Jimmy Spell
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas E. Hearon Sr.
Ashley Spinks
Donald M. Boswell Family
Maurice J. Boswell
Joseph P. Lannon Family
Donand Stephenson
Mr. & Mrs. Ted Clark
Mr. & Mrs. Billy D. Moore
Mrs. Leneva M. Stewart
Mr. & Mrs. Wayne McDonald
Ms. Katherine W. Melton
Mr. David (Ben) Stienstraw
Reagan W. Martin
Larkin Strickland
Miss Fay Parker
Mrs. Floyd Sulser, Sr.
Mr. & Mrs. W. W. Bailey
Mrs. M. L. Summers
Mr. & Mrs. Walter B. Moore
Mr. & Mrs. James A. Sinclair
Buster & Christine Swindoll
Troy & Doris Carver
Horton Taylor
Graeber Brothers, Inc.
Jim Taylor
Henrietta Miller
Mr. Tommie W. Taylor
Mr. & Mrs. Paul D. Allen
Mrs. Virginia Moser
Mr. & Mrs. Billy Mangold
Mrs. Calvin Butler
Mrs. Emmett Wilson & Family
Mrs. Myrtie Tharp
Mrs. Anne G. Tirey
Joyce Thomas
Eddie & Lisa Painter
Jerry & Jane Read
Jerry & Sue Read
Ardell Thomas
Annie Jean Thonrton
Jericho Baptist Church
Jimmy Thornhill
Mrs. June Bowering
Virginia Evans Thornton
Mr. & Mrs. Charles L. Shelton
Margaret O'Quinn Tiffany
Ms. Roberta T. Mantooth
Lawrenceville Elementary School
Jamie C. Shew
Beverly Thomas
Bobbie Turnage
Marjoie Wallace
Mr. & Mrs. Hale Singletary Jr.
Audrey Mae Warwick
Mrs. Ferna Lee Hutchins
Mrs. Virginia B. Weatherly
Ms. Anita H. Burt
Miss Leslie Lee Webb
Mr. & Mrs. S. S. Crocker
Mrs. Mary K. Evans
Mr. & Mrs. Everett S. Cole Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. William M. Parker Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Rhen W. Pierce
Mrs. Esta D. Webb
Mr. & Mrs. Everett S. Cole Jr.
Mary Wheeler
Lauderdale Cty Baptist Association
Mr. Y. G. Whelchel
Mr. & Mrs. Alton L. Fields
Mr. Earl White
Mrs. Jack M. Simmons
Mrs. Laverne White
Mr. & Mrs. Carlton W. Edmondson
Jim Wilds
Ms. Doris S. Brock
Marjorie Williamse
Morrison Heights BC
Bobbie Jagers Williams
Dale Bond
Barbara Cotton
Tommye Lou Grenn
Tanya Moore
Mrs. Williams
Mr. & Mrs. John M. Tidwell
Mrs. Thelma Wilson
Deacons, Macedonia BC, Brookhaven
Mrs. Vester Wilson
Mr. & Mrs. Luke Roberts
Larry Winegarten
Mr. & Mrs. Raymond A. Magnan
Mr. J. D. Winter
David, Deborah & Matthew White
Mrs. Murray Winthrop
Dr. & Mrs. Joe Ivy Gillespie
Henrietta Witherspoon
Mrs. Irene L. Brister
Johnny Woodall
Beatrice J. Woodall
Mrs. Alyne Woodall
Mrs. Lucille H. Harris
Swayze Woodruff
Mr. & Mrs. Norman Browning
Mr. Danny R. Gregory
Mrs. Gerry McGraw
Keith Wooten
Mr. & Mrs. Ernest Lowery
Gwin Yarber
T.E.L. SSC, FBC-Pontotoc
Arthurleen Young
Mrs. Hilda Cullen
Mrs. Nannie H. Zeigler
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Allen & Children

Crawfish fun

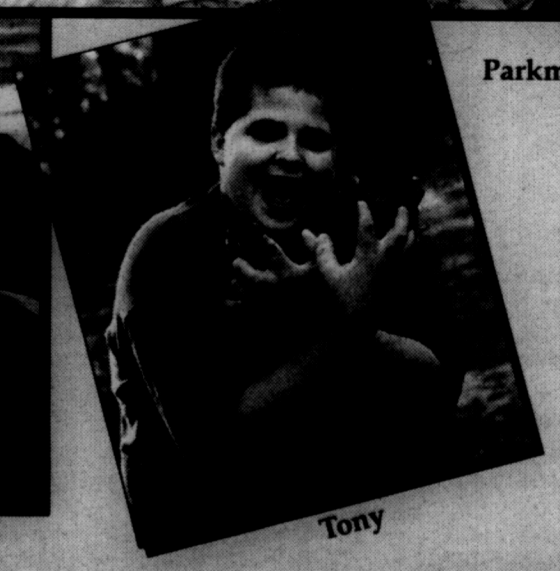
The Parkman family of Monticello, one of The Baptist Children's Village's visiting families, hosted a crawfish boil for the residents and staff of the Dickerson Place campus in Brookhaven.



The Parkman's



Jenea (left) and Dickerson Place staff members



Tony

Avalon leader: Grace not taken for granted

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Michael Passons had often sung about grace, but somehow had taken it for granted.

"God has been teaching me about his grace," said Passons, the founding member of Avalon, 1998's Dove winner as New Artist of the Year on the basis of their self-titled inaugural album, "Avalon."

In March of this year, the group received its second Dove, when their "Testify to Love" was named best song in the pop-contemporary category.

"We take this word for granted," Passons said, reflecting on grace, part of the title of the group's second album, "A Maze of Grace."

"You hear it all your life, especially growing up in church and hearing the songs, sermons, and Sunday School (lessons). But we really don't know what that word means."

Besides Bible study, last year Passons immersed himself in "What's So Amazing About Grace?" an award-winning book by Phillip Yancey. Taking time out from a hectic schedule that kept the group on the road every weekend in 1998, he listened to God speak through that book and in other ways.

For Passons, an awareness of grace goes back a long way. To encourage every teenager who feels like a geek, there is Passons' story. Twenty years ago, he wasn't a handsome, versatile singer.

A country boy who grew up outside Yazoo City, he dealt with his "uncool" status by secluding himself on the family farm. After school, he often rode horses or four-wheelers.

"I did have friends at church and that was a saving grace," he said. "I loved hanging out with my friends after church on Wednesday nights and Sundays."

His musical roots are singing in the choir first at Center Ridge Church and, later, First Church of Yazoo City.

Later,he served on the music staff of First Church, Jackson, while a student at Baptist-affiliated Mississippi College in Clinton.

Actually, his vocal range, mellow tones, and confident stage presence make it difficult to envision him as anything but an extremely talented musician.

Ditto for his group, whose "New Artist" Dove puts them alongside past winners like Jars of Clay, Point of Grace, Take 6, and 4Him.

Attend an Avalon concert and you'll clap and sing along with the overlapping vocals and determined melody line that drove their first six singles to the top of the Christian music charts.



Passons (top) and Avalon

Passons leads out on "Testify to Love," which holds the distinction of being the longest-running Christian AC song at No.1, and the title tune to "A Maze of Grace."

He doesn't hog the spotlight, sharing it in turn with mates Jody McBrayer, Janna Potter, and Cherie Paliotta.

In just four years, the group has performed in front of nearly a million people — a long way from those awkward days in Yazoo City.

"By opening doors and shutting doors, I've somehow ended up here," he said. "God is leading."

(Edited and reprinted from Challenge, a magazine published by the North American Mission Board.)

Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx
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VEH ZO NWC BMANZN-MSC EV SHCLBQ LOS BLOP REHSQ NWCHC LHC LAQE SZICHQ ILOZNZCQ: DMN VCLH NWEM UES.

CJJACQZLQNCQ VZIC: QCICO

Clue: B = M

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Matthew Six: Thirty-Four.

Youth leaders given ten ministry commandments

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP) — Allen Jackson believes the landscape of youth ministry has changed radically in the last decade.

Jackson, assistant professor of youth education at New Orleans Seminary and liaison professor with LifeWay Christian Resources, told participants in Rec Lab at Glorieta (N.M.) Conference Center, "Ten years ago we were just having fun with kids. Today we are in a litigation-happy society."

While clearly identifying himself as neither an attorney nor a legal expert, he told church recreation leaders he reads and collects information about legal issues related to youth ministry.

"I want to raise the consciousness," he said. "Until the past two years, clergy have been insulated from tort (civil) liability. We've never been absolved from abuse, but until recently court cases that targeted ministers hadn't been successful."

Jackson encourages those who lead youth ministry to get legal and insurance counsel from professionals, but to raise awareness he has developed a list of "Ten Commandments for Youth Ministry:"

• Keep your character above reproach in everything. Character is the best defense against false accusations. If one's integrity is intact, it is the best preventive strike against litigation.

• Be aware of "safety sins" *(See box at right).*

• Know your insurance coverage under the church plan. Understand "driving out from under coverage," such as driving into a country where your insurance may not be valid or where laws may be different, or modifying equipment, including adding a trailer hitch to a van.

Note exclusions, such as no coverage for water skiing or snow skiing. Check with the host organization to determine their coverage. Know if your coverage is adequate.

• Screen volunteers for qualifications and background. Have two adults in supervision. Protect sight lines by having glass doors or open doors. Have a formal screening process. Be wise about one-on-one contact and equip volunteers.

• Make sure business and ministry agreements are in writing (for example, who is responsible for bus drivers' expenses). Handshakes make good greetings and bad business. Keep notes on counseling situations and parent meetings.

• Avoid using the word "counselor." Provide spiritual advice, but don't write "counseling" on your calendar. Courts distinguish between spiritual advice and counseling.

Counselors today must be certified. Use the terms "chaperone" or "sponsor" for volunteers. Know when it is time to refer youth to a certified counselor.

• Stay current on vehicle laws, including license requirements and displaying vehicle identification. Know the liabilities in owning versus chartering or renting vehicles.

• Have firm guidelines regarding trips. Youth without permission forms cannot participate.

Enlist a lead female if you are a male; enlist a lead male if you are female. An advance site visit is not optional; it is a requirement. Stick with your plan. Do not add unplanned side trips.

• Put your policies in writing and distribute them. Provide a youth ministry manual to parents. Host parent meetings. Have trip and discipline guidelines. Outline nonnegotiables for volunteers.

• Keep up to date on evolving issues. Have a yearly insurance checkup. Know the law about access to schools. Have current medical release forms.

Ten "Safety Sins" for youth ministry events

• Not enough staff or chaperones. On trips there should be one adult to every five gender-separate youth.

• Too many youth in a vehicle. Accommodate no more people than seat belts in the vehicle.

• No time to plan for safety. Think through an event.

• No plan of action to respond to an emergency, including callback systems and meeting places when participants become separated from the group. Plan a site visit to find emergency services.

• Students driving.

• Failure to use seat belts.

• Lack of First Aid training or supplies.

• Inadequate paperwork.

• Allowing a dangerous activity to continue.

• Unsupervised use of equipment.

Source: Allen Jackson, assistant professor of youth education at New Orleans Seminary and liaison professor with LifeWay Christian Resources.



NOODLE WHAT? — Todd Blackhurst (left), minister of youth at First Baptist Church, Pampa, Texas, and Paul Gwinn, minister of youth and activities, Bastrop, La., play one of many Noodlemania games during a class at Rec Lab, Feb. 12-17 at Glorieta (N.M.) Conference Center. (BP photo by Jim Veneman)